

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /096 W
-----035468 011337Z /46

R 011107Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1308
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ELECTIONS

REF: LUSAKA 1887, PRETORIA 2841

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MAY 31 INDICATE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) ACCEPTED THE "PARTY LIST" SYSTEM FOR THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD BEFORE DECEMBER 31. IN A STATEMENT, THE EC SAID THAT DELAY OF ELECTIONS "CANNOT BE COUNTENANCED" AND, AS IT WAS SATISFIED THAT FULL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS COULDN'T BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, IT WOULD TURN TO THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM. THIS MEANS THAT VOTERS
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MERELY VOTE FOR THEIR PARTY PREFERENCE AND SEATS ARE ALLOCATED TO EACH PARTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS VOTE PERCENTAGE.

2. SUBSEQUENT ACCOUNTS CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE UNANIMITY OF THE EC DECISION AS A ZANU (SITHOLE) SPOKESMAN CRITICIZED THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM. THE SPOKESMAN

REPORTEDLY SAID "WE DO NOT LIKE PARTY LIST VOTING BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE NOT GIVEN THE CHOICE OF CANDIDATES IN INDIVIDUAL SEATS. THEY HAVE TO VOTE FOR A PARTY AND WE THINK IT FAVORS THE MAJORITY PARTY." ONE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES THAT THIS RETHINKING OF THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM CAME ABOUT BECAUSE THE SYSTEM INCLUDES A MINIMAL CUT-OFF PERCENTAGE OF VOTES NEEDED TO HAVE A PARTY REPRESENTED. THIS CUT-OFF IS REPORTEDLY BETWEEN SEVEN AND TEN PERCENT AND COULD MEAN THAT ZUPO AND EVEN ZANU (S) MIGHT BE ELIMINATED.

3. COMMENT: THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PARTIES HAVE LONG SINCE REALIZED THAT FULL BLOWN CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WOULD BE ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPOSSIBLE. AS REFTELS REPORT, AN ALTERNATE SYSTEM HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTY LIST BEING THE FAVORED. RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS TOLD US ON MAY 31 THAT THIS SYSTEM WOULD "FACILITATE" THE VOTING ARRANGEMENTS AND MAKE IT EASIER TO MEET THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE. THE PERCENTAGE CUT-OFF PROPOSAL THAT IS CAUSING SOME CONSTERNATION WILL PROBABLY BE COMPROMISED AND NOT ALLOWED TO DETRACK THE ELECTIONS. EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-0498
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806107/aaaadnxa.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9cd417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUSAKA 1887, 78 PRETORIA 2841
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2159886
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SOPN, RH
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9cd417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014